## DETESTABLE TYRANNY.

Rude Awakening of Americans Lured to Mexico by Visions of Riches.

They Find Themselves Imprisoned and Their Property Confiscated.

At the Mercy of Hostile Officials, Who Laugh at Efforts to Obtain Redress.

Pitfalls Into Which Confiding Foreigners Are Lured to Their Ruin.

To the Editor.

The ratification of the reciprocity treaty with Mexico, and the increase of American interests in that country likely to result from il, recall the statement in one of the papers not long ago that foreign owners of real estate in Mexico would forfeit such property through a two years' absence, unless with permission of the Mexican government.

To those who have been led to believe that Mexico welcomes foreigners to hershores that statement may have appeared to be unwarforeigners, and lavites them with the riches of

The laws of Mexico, running as far back as 1842, embody provisions that foreigners, who are residents and denizons of the republic, may acquire and possess property by any title established by law. Many persons have sought to avail themselves of the benefit of these enactments, confiding in the permanency of the acquisition they made. But there are coupled with these apparently liberal concessions, limitations, and restrictions affecting not only the tenure of property that may be lawfully acquired, but as well the right to acquire it at all.

Thus in the same acts which concede to foreigners the right to acquire real estate they are prohibited from acquiring such property within five leagues of the coast of the republic, unless a special law gives that privi-lege. No foreigner can, without previous permission of the supreme government, acquire real estate in the frontier states or territories except twenty leagues from the line of the frontier. Nor can a foreigner sequirs more than two estates within the same state or territory without the license

same state or territory without the hoose of the supreme government.

To obtain the permission required by these laws the foreigner must address a written petition to the department of public works; upon this petition a report must be made by the government of the state or territory where the land is situated, and upon a review of all these the application is decided. of all these the application is decided.

If the permission is granted and a purchase made the premission is granted and a purchase made the presmble of the deed must recite the fact of such permission, the nationality, and residence of the parties, or the notary public will not take and certify the execution of the deed, and it will have no force as a valid conveyance. If the purchase is to be made by virtue of a special law, the special law need not be set out with all the details as in case of permission, but it may be simply referred to by its title. But after the foreigner has complied with

all these conditions, and duly acquired the property, he may lose his right to such real First. By absenting himself with his family

for two years without the permission of the

for two years without the permission of the Mexican government.
Second. By residing out of the republic.
Third. By transferring the property, by inheritance, sale, or by any other title, to a person who does not reside in the republic.
In all such cases the land must be sold, sither by the owner or by the state, and the product of the sale in the latter case delivered to him who hast owned the land, with a reduction of 10 per cent. Mines are excepted from such forfeiture. The fact that there are such restrictions importling the rights of property in Mexico is justly calculated to property in Mexico is justly calculated to cause widespread apprehension in the minds of all foreigners who have investments in

estate in that country

To the many Americans who, turning to that tempting field of operation, have embarked capital and labor in the various mining and railway enterprises of Mexico, a knowledge of these municipal laws, and the fact and effect of their enforcement, is of paramount importance. This is especially true, because there are no treaties in force between Mexico and the United States between Mexico and the United States expressing reciprocal rights of their respective citizens in the territory of the other that would in any way exempt American citizens from the operation of such laws. Though American energy responding to Mexico's invitation to come to her shores and help her utilize her come to her shores and help her utilize her vast and scarcely developed natural resources may find employment for the accumulated wealth and industry of the United States, but few persons would doliberately invest money or bestow labor to acquire property in a country where it would be liable to be swept away in a moment by the operation of laws so repugnant to the principles of republican government and so subversity of the

laws so repugnant to the principles of republican government and so subversive of the sacreds right of property.

Many who have gone to Mexico to improve their worldly estate have been lured by visions of rapidly acquired wealth in "Old Mexico," and have given little thought to the question of their standing and rights in a foreign land. They have taken it for granted that the remaining land rights in a foreign land. They have taken it for granted that the municipal laws and regulations of Mexico and the United States are alike, because each country has a republican form of government based on a written constitution. As a matter of fact, while the respective constitutions and bills of rights by the two republics are similar, that of Mexico being possibly more liberal than that of the United States, the naturicipal regulations of the former in all that cipal regulations of the former, in all that relates to the status of foreign residents and their property rights, not only differ from those of the United States but are in strong contrast with the liberal spirit of the Mexical

found in her jurisdiction upon the presump-tion that they are her subjects, and imposes on them the burden of removing that pre-sumption by some : firmative action on their part. Thus, a foreigner in Mexico who would avail himself of the privileges assured to foreigners by those laws, be his object busi-ness or pleasure; quast report to the foreign office, and establish to its satisfaction his office, and establish to its satisfaction his foreign nationality, and his desire to rotain it, despite his residence in Mexico. This may be proved by his passport from his own government, or the next best evidence. This heng accomplished, he is registered at that office as a foreigner or "matriculated," as it is styled, and as such foreigner he will be recognized by the Mexican government semething after the manner that a depositor in a heak his registered that the bank may idenhank is registered that the bank may iden-tify him and determine the genuineness of checks drawn against his funds.

thy film and determine the genuineness of chocks drawn against his funds.

Upon being thus registered or "matriculated" a certificate of matriculation is issued to him. Without such a certificate his rights as a foreigner will not be recognized by the government. To quote the language of the regulation. "Neither shall there be admitted in any offices of the republic any claim or question on the part of foreigners unless upon making or presenting the same they present the certificate of matriculation, of which a record shall be made of the papers of the case: "and so far as relates to the period previous to the date when they were inscribed and obtained the certificate of matriculation they shall not carrie any rights, neither shall there be asimicted any claim or question coming from them under the character of foreigners."

The hardships of these regulations as they

The hardships of these regulations as they are actually enforced may be seen in the frequent cases of Americans from the border grates, who, being temporarily in Mexico, are deprived of their liberty, despoided of prop-erty, and even impressed into the Mexican army. And when the government of the

the protection due its citizens, its right to do so has invariably been decided by Mexico, on the ground that such citizens, not having been.

There are many other Americans in that matriculated as such, they are not known to that government as citizens of the United

In 1880 an American civil engineer was In 1880 an American civil engineer was employed in Mexico by a railread company in the preparation of plans. The work was being conducted in the office of the company and was nearly finished, when the engineer became satisfied that the plans were being claudestinely copied. He thereupon ranted a room in another building and transferred his work to it. He was immediately arrested on a charge of larceny of the plans and put in jail. On the United States minister's applying for his release, the only answer that the Mexican government made was that as the man had not been matriculated as an American citizen no jutervention in his behalf by the United States would be admitted. He was, however, soon afterward released through efforts of personal friends.

Two years ago a naturalized American

released through efforts of personal friends.

Two years ago a naturalized Amorican eltizen was living in Mexico and engaged in milling business in which he owned and used a number of teams. One day a squad of military police visited his millesst and demanded the delivery to them for the use of the troops all of his teams, offering to receipt for them. Upon his refusal to comply with the demand, they took all of the teams by force and carried them off, some of the mules were returned to the owner four or five months afterward, but the rest of the property was never restored, her was any compensation made either for the use of that which was restored or for the conversion of which was restored or for the conversion of

the rest.

The Mexican government refusing to pay ranted. For, in the language of an able jurist, him, he, as a United States citizen, applied commenting upon the Mexican constitution and the rights of foreigners to the guarantees appeal Mexico, as usual, replied that instrument, it is said that granted by that instrument, it is said that contracted by the contracted by him as a citizen of the United States because he had elized of the United States because he had

eithen of the United States because he had not matriculated as such, and to this day he has not received a cent for the injury he suffered, and has contributed an unwilling pittance as a citizen of Mexico.

A few years ago an advertisement appeared in a Pittaburg paper calling for skilled workmen to go to a Mexican town to work in a furnace to be established there. Tempted by the resume of year for time aven, when the the premise of pay for time even when the furnace might asspend operations, a party of mechanics were engaged by an agent of the furnace company and went to the town in question. After remaining there some weeks and getting little assurance of the engage-ment being kept with them, and unable to get a settlement, they determined to return

get a settlement, they determined to return to their homes.

Just as they were starting they were ar-rested on a charge of swindling and put in jail. Through the influence of friends they were released, but only to be arrested again. They were subjected to this treatment sev-oral times, until finally the United States minister came to their aid; but for awhile with the usual result—that, as they had not matriculated as Americans, the right of the representative of the United States to intervene in their behalf would be denied. Finally upon pressure they were released, the United States insisting that they should

the United States insisting that they should be allowed to matriculate. A more serious case was that of a gentleman and his wife from El Paso, Tex. In July, 1881, they arrived at Chihushua for the 1881, they arrived at Chinushua for the purpose of travel in Mexico. They purchased saddle horses and pack mules and employed a servant to accompany them. They visited various places and were last heard of alive in Durango, which city they left in September of that year for Mazatlan.

After this nothing more was heard of them until in October, when their hodies were

After this nothing more was heard of them until in October, when their bodies were found a short distance from Durange. They had evidently been murdered for the purpose of robbery, as they were known to have had considerable money on their persons. Suspicion fell on the servant as the murderer, as he had disappeared about that time, and was with them when last seen allva. This case was brought to the attention of the United States government, and its minister in States government, and its minister in Mexico was instructed to request of the Mexican government the detection and punishment of the murderer.

punishment of the murderer.

The ministor promptly complied with his instructions. He received no reply for six months, and when that reply came it said in substance that if the object of the request of substance that if the object of the request of the United States was to secure the punish-ment of the guilty, it afforded the Mexican government pleasure to comply with the request; but if the intention was to raise any question of damages, it declared that the intervention by the United States must be declined, because it did not appear on the register of the foreign office that the mur-dered man and his wife were citizens of the United States and so far as known there the

lations two courses are open to foreigners— cither to leave the country or become natu-ralized citizons of Mexico. But, no matter how eager one may be in the pursuit of wealth, not many are willing to exchange for

it their nationality.
The naturalization laws of Mexico present some unusual provisions, by the operation of which foreigners may be transformed into Mexican citizens without having had any intention to transfer their allegiance from their native to a foreign government.

By the Mexican constitution a foreigner who purchases real estate, or has a son born to him of a Mexican woman, in Mexico, becomes thereby a Mexican citizen, unless at the time of such act or event he declares his intention to retain his nationality. Similarly, it is provided that If the son of a foreignor has been emancipated during his minority, and allows a year to clapse without declaring his intention to rotain the nationality of his father, he thereby becomes a Mexican citizen. As such naturalized citizens they are subject to all the duties, civil and military, that the native-born citizens are liable to. Early in her history Mexico recognized

Early in her history Mexico recognized that an increase of population was her great need and legislated to supply that want.

This is manifested in her immigration laws, and especially in later years in her claborate system of colonization. While the provisions for naturalization above referred to seem to have been especially designed to the same end.

Naturalization is not effected in Mexico, as in the United States, solely through a deliberate act of the applicant expressing an intention to become a citizen of Mexico, based on a prescribed residence, and all consummated in the judgment of a court. All this involves the voluntary consent of the citizen, and probationary term to quality him for his changed relations under his new allegiance. changed relations under his new allegiance

changed relations under his new allegiance. In Mexico a foreigner may be naturalized through a petition to the president, no previous residence being required for any specific term, and in the modes described, through the purchase of real estate or the birth of a son, accompanied by a failure of a declaration of his intention to retain his native citizenship—the one involving no intention to transfer his allegiance and the other involving no intention at all, it being the mere occurrence of a condition that may attach to to any man in the ordinary course of nature. It may be thought that such unusual laws and regulations are never enforced. On the contrary, woile there has never been a decision by any judicial triumal of the republic of the principles involved in these laws, there are epinions, professional and

laws, there are opinions, professional and official, affirming their validity and effect. The opinion of the governor of Durango is entitled to great consideration, as it was given in response to a request made by the state of Source, and was published in the leading papers of the City of Mexico at the

leading papers of the City of Mexico at the time it was written in August, 1883.

That opinion, upon a review of all the legislative and constitutional provisons on the subject sustained, the construction that they are constitutional and in force mainly as above stated. The publication called out much discussion and criticism, the most of which supported the views he expressed. The views of the Mexican government as to the validity and the effect of the law as to the naturalization of foreigners through the purchase of real estate and the regulation as to the matriculation of foreigners, are illustrated in its refusal to allow foreigners their claims as such where they had before that purchased real estate without making the declaration prescribed by the article of the

declaration prescribed by the article of the constitution above referred to. Not long since an American resident of Mexico, having only recently learned the

Mexico, having only recently learned the necessity of matriculation, applied to the Mexican fereign office to be matriculated.

He was not allowed to do so because the records of that diffice showed that some time before he had purchased real estate in Maxico without, at the time, declaring his intention to retain his American citizenship; that thereby he became a Mexican citizen by virtue. United States has sought to extend to them I sue of the thirtieth article of the constitution,

country who, in like manner, have become Moxicans, and will remain subject to all the duties incident to such citizenship so long as they remain in any part of that republic. Such, at least, is their standing in the eyes of Moxico, though the United States can not consent to such a mode of transferring the allegiance of her citizens to a foreign power.

allegance of her citizens to a foreign power.
Although this government has abandoned
the feudal doctrine of perpetual allegiance,
and now holds that the right of expatriation
is the inherent right of every citizen, it
insints that the exercise of such right must
be evidenced by some voluntary act on the
part of the citizen. Thus, whon it is manifested by the oath of allegiance to a foreign
government that is sufficient to establish the government that is sufficient to establish the government that is sufficient to establish the expatriation of such person. But it has nover been asserted that one government can compel a citizen of another to yield up his allegiance due to his native country against his own voluntary consent. The United States may not question the competency of Mexico to adopt these municipal laws or regulation, or to enforce them on toney of Mexico to adopt those municipal laws or regulations, or to enforce them on her native-born citizens, but assuredly this government cannot by any act divest itself of its duty to protect its citizens, nor can its citizens forfeit their reciprocal right to such protection except by their own deliberate, voluntary set. Such are the laws of Mexico, and as they are written abo enforces and will en-

force them. It matters little what may be the position this government assumes as to the effect of these regulations upon citizens of the United Status, or what may be the result of its con-tention with Mexico on that question. No man desires to be in peril of property, liberty, or life while waiting the result of a contention between the two governments. The laws, delays, and hardships of prison life in Mexico are well known.

A Texas paper lately reported the imprison-

bey are written she enforces and will en-

ment of a citizen of that state in Mexico on a charge of murder, and recited the fact that the accused, while swaiting trial, was taken out of jail every other day and excerted through the village to beg the means of sub-sistence. In view of the hardships resulting from the enforcement of these laws, Mexico affords a striking illustration of the familiar

affords a striking illustration of the familiar saying, that ignorance of the law excuses noman. And it often happens that when forcigners apply for relief in cases where they have, through want of knowledge of these laws, violated them, the Mexican officials tunt them with their ignorance.

There can be no relief for the many Americans who to-day, through ignorance of these laws, are deemed by the Mexican government to be Mexican citizens while they remain in Mexico, unless there shall be a modification of the laws, or an authoritative decision of the court of final appeal declaring their unconstitutionality.

modification of the laws, or an authoritative decision of the court of final appeal declaring their unconstitutionality.

"Viewing these provisions in the light of the liberal spirit of Mexico of to-day, inviting the world industry and wealth to her shores, it is not easy to comprehend the object of such legislation. The twenty leagues restriction was enacted more than thirty years ago. At that time the feeling of Mexico toward foreign nations was one of distrust and non-intercourse, and toward the United States in particular that of hostility.

The war between the two powers and the bitter memories that followed only intensified that hostility of feeling. The Mexican people supposed that the spirit of annexation animated the government and people of the United States. They viewed with much concern the fact that the United States had more territory contiguous with Mexico than any other foreign power, Guatemala having but a few miles of frontier in common with her, and the only other foreign power adjoining Mexico was the British settlement in Honduras. To the millitary spirits of that day, who were moding the future of Mexico, it doubtless seemed military spirits of that day, who were mold-ing the future of Mexico, it doubtless seemed to be a necessary and wise provision to protect this strip of twenty leagues of her

protect this strip of twenty leagues of her territory from ever becoming the field of foreign settlement and the basis of fillibuster-ing expeditions from the United States. But with the mest of the people, especially those who belong to the progressive party and represent a controlling influence in the administration of the government, these ap-prehensions have given place to the friendly relations which low characterize the interrelations which now characterize the inter relations which now characterize the inter-course between the two republics, and to-day leading men of both powers join in efforts to strengthen and extend these cordial rela-tions, and to bring the governments and people of Mexico and the United States into more intimate commercial intercourse, thereby promoting the material interests of both

dered man and his wife were citizens of the United States, and so far as known there the case ended.

To escape the compliance with these regulations two courses are open to foreigners—increased market for the products of her increased market continue to develop her country, increase her population, industry, and products to supply the market the United States affords. There is an element of the population of Mexico which is violently opposed to the treaty, or to anything that would in any way change the old order of things, and is still fearful of annoyation register fear the Victorian. the old order of things, and is still fearful of annexation projects from the United States. An expression of that feeling manifested itself in the attack made on the property of the Mexican Central railway, connecting the cities of Mexico and St. Louis. And so there are Mexicans who, to this day, believe that they won the battle of Buena Vista. But they are the exceptions to friendly feeling for the United States hold by the Mexican people generally and even those will wear people generally, and even those will wear away as the intercourse becomes more fre-quent and business interests multiply.

With the advent of this friendly feeling between Mexico and the United States should be climinated from the statutes of Mexico these relies of an age of distrust and hos-tility which deter foreigners from placing investment within her jurisdiction and retard her progress. Mexico has made great progress within the last ten years under the wise and progressive influence of her public men.

She is seeking to extend her commerce not only with the United States, but with European powers. A vast work of railroads projected by Americans, built with American capital, and equipped with machinery of American manufacture, connects her leading cities with great trunk lines and cities of the United States.

United States.

She invites foreigners, not only with the riches of her country, but with her system of immigration and colonization. The contracts already entered into between the govern-

already entered into between the government and private individuals and corpora-tions to induce colonization of her soil, if successfully carried out, would bring thou-sands of industrious settlers to swell her population and develop her industries.

The inducements offered to the intending colonists are liberal—perhaps too liberal. The obligations proposed to be assumed by the government under the contracts already reads approximately amount. In St. 1990 600. the government under the contracts arready made approximately amount to \$23,000,000. This amount is so lurge, in view of the financial condition of Mexico, as to make it a matter of reasonable doubt that the government of the contract of ment has the means to perform these obligations, especially since there is no public land system in Mexice as understood by the term in the United States. But not enough has been done under these contracts as yet to fairly test the merits of the scheme. And while these measures of the government may show the sincerity of its efforts to induce foreigners to her shores, these unusual re-strictions on their status and property rights are a menaes to all foreign investment in

These laws will be a barrier to the develop ment of the country so much desired, until there shall be a modification of that objec-tionable clause of the constitution which converts a foreigner into a Maxican citizen against his consent, and a decision of her highest court declaring the invalidity of the equally objectionable forfeiture laws. W.

The Vacuut Solicitorship,

The vacancy which has existed in the office of solicitor of the treasury since the death of Judge Rayner, March 5, has secriously affected the business of that office. The law provides that the bonds of disbursing clerks, collectors of internal revenue, &c., shall be approved by the solicitor before these officers can enter on the discharge of their duties. At present there are several cases of this class now pend-ing in the solicitor's office, including five collectors of internal revenue and the disbursing clerk of the postoffice department appointed to succeed Col. Burnside, It is understood that the President finds consid-erable difficulty in filling this office, owing to the fact that the appointment would only

INTERCHANGE OF COURTESIES.

The American Minister to China and the Celestial Viceroy Exchange Pleasant Vtatts.

Rear Admiral John Lee Davis, commanding the Asiatic squadron, reports to the navy department under date of Hong Kong, May G, that the Enterprise arrived at Canton on the 17th of Apriliwith Minister Young on board, and the next day Mr. Young, with his private secretary and the United States consul and Rear Admiral Davis, accompanied by his personal staff, called upon Vicercy Chang and were cordistly received and entertained The following day the visit was returned on The following day the visit was returned on board the Enterprise. During his visit the crew was exercised and a torpedo exploded. On both occasions of meeting the interchange of friendly sentiments was marked by the cordinaity with which he expressed the partiality of the Chinese government for the United States. A visit was made to Macoa for the purpose of ascertaining the advisability of establishing a vice consulate there.

Minister Young while there accepted the Minister Young while there accepted the hospitalities of the governor. The Enterprise arrived at Hong Kong on the 1st of May, and the Trenton, with the Corean embassy on board, arrived the same day. The minister, Nun Yong Ik, was profuse in his compliments to the captain and officers of the Trenton for their kindness to him. The Trenton was to leave for Corea, via Nagasaka, about May 10, and to report at Chefoo June 10 for duty. After the coremonies attending the landing of the Corean embassay the Junista was to proceed to Shanghai, and the Alert was to be sent to Corea. The Corean government again gave its consent for the vessels of the squadron its consent for the vessels of the squadron to survey on that coast, requesting to be supplied with copies of the charts made. The Alert will continue the work recom-menced by the Juniata.

Poneas and Modocs in the Indian Territory.

Inspector Benedict, of the interior department, has made a report upon the condition of the Ponca Indians in their new home in the Indian territory. The report states that the Indians are highly pleased with their lands, which are rich and productive, and that they have requested the secretary of the interior to procure for them a number of farm horses, for which they are willing to farm horses, for which they are willing to exchange their cash annuities and groceries. Hereafter they expect to raise sufficient beef for their own wants. The Modocs are also re-ported to be in a flourishing condition, and have progressed further toward civilization than many tribes that have been in the ter-ritory much longer periods. The Otoe In-dians became dissatisfied with their school, and withdrew most of their children, but the inspector promptly checked the disaffection and caused the return of the pupils by threating to cut off their annuities and sup-

Who Can Shake Sixes?

To the Etwor.

Blaine has six letters to his name. He was nominated Friday, June 6, 1884, being on the sixth day of the week, the sixth day of the month, and the sixth month of the year. He month, and the sixth month of the year. He was speaker for six years, and elected senator in 1876. He will be the sixth James to be president, and the world will know the fact by the 6th of November.

F. A. H. St. Louis vs. Washington, Athletic park to-day.

Air Advertisements under the heads of Wants, Fur Reut, Fur Sale, Boarding, Lost and Found, and Forsona, of three lines or less, eighteen long words, 15 cents one insertion; each adultional insertion 10 cents. Business cards not included in these rates.

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AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, At 8 o'clock.

Tickets, 25 cents each. To be had at Ellin's Music fore and of members of the class. Reserved Seals 25 cents extra. [e-lib-98]
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